

2 Wheels 4 Change



Workshops with Children and Youth in Difficult Situations

Cycling from Germany to Mongolia

Dear Friends of the Arts,

We want to use theater, music and acrobatics to help children and youth develop possibilities of expressing themselves. Starting in March 2010, we will cycle through Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan and Mongolia, visiting orphanages and other institutions for children at risk. We will give workshops, in which the children, youth and their caretakers will develop performances together with professional musicians, clowns and actors.

Conscious of the current world environmental circumstances, we choose to use the most environmentally friendly mode of transportation – cycling. This way of traveling should spark conversations and performance ideas around the topics of sustainability, environmental protection and climate change.

Additionally, we will show non-verbal short films about these topics and hold discussions afterward.

Since we are a young, non-commercial organisation, we are dependent upon sponsorships and material donations. The 8000km route will be especially tough on our bicycles, which need indestructible touring parts that are beyond our means.

Our sponsors will be named in all publications, including our website and video documentary about the project, which will be conducted by OffBeat Unity Productions. It is possible for us to print logos, for instance, on our tents, bicycles and panniers.

We are a registered German non-profit organisation called Jonglirium e.V., which makes monetary donations tax-deductable.

Thank you for taking the time to read our proposal. We hope you are able to help us with this project that supports sustainability, creativity and cultural exchange with children and youth in difficult situations. If you have questions, please send us an email, visit our website or give us a call.

Sincerely,

tyle fernández and Felix Fischer, Jonglirium e.V.

Attachments: Proposal & Wish List

2 Wheels 4 Change Proposal

Tell me and I'll forget.

Show me, maybe I'll remember.

Let me take part, then I'll understand.

Chinese Proverb

Project Goals

- Strengthening of one's self-consciousness and physical abilities
- Learning from and with each other (skill-sharing)
- Intercultural exchange and dialog to reduce prejudices and discrimination
- Connecting institutes that work with children and youth between Europe and Central Asia
- Providing further education in the fields of theater, music and circus for caretakers who work with children and youth
- Broadening the environmental consciousness of young people

Effects of Theater, Circus and Music

By creating a performance about topics pertaining to their own lives, young people will gain direct access to a way to express their own ideas and impulses. This increases their ability to communicate and interact with each other and their surroundings. Trust in one's own abilities can be stimulated through an active confrontation with new challenges and the discovery that one can influence the events in one's own life. The process of development and the personal experiences are in the foreground here, in contrast to the pressure of accomplishment and achievement which often dominates daily life. This type of learning creates independent ways of handling situations, so that all participants have the opportunity to discover new aspects of their own personalities.



In addition to the non-verbal expression of intuitively playing and improvising, the participants will be urged to use their voices and to percussively accompany their actions. They will have the opportunity to try different musical instruments. Musical expression can help to uncover personal burdens and to deal with such experiences. Music is also an ideal way to explore cultural differences, reduce prejudices and confront discrimination.

On Tour with Youth and Caretakers

Our work is not explicitly for children – we also want to include the local caretakers, giving them access to new talents and ideas for further projects. The effects mentioned above will be further increased through the invitation to accompany us on the tour, visiting people in the region, learning from each other and sharing their experiences and talents.

Additionally, we hope to network the institutions that we visit, so that an exchange can take place. This could be the coordination of further projects in the realms of theater, circus and music, or through an exchange program for youth between the institutions.

Climate Change & Sustainability

Choosing bicycles as our mode of transportation, we want to emphasise how important it is to act on the topics of sustainability and environmental protection. For us, flying to work with these organisations is out of the question.

We will show films about the effects of climate change and pollution, as well as the possibilities of personally helping to protect the environment. Through discussions about these topics with the children and youth, we hope to help them express their ideas through artistic performances.

Workshop Instructors

Our core team of European and American workshop instructors offer artists the possibility of accompanying us for part or all of the 7-month journey across the Eurasian continent.

- **tyle fernández (California, USA / Frankfurt, Germany)** has worked for 6 years with antagon theaterAKTion, one of the largest professional outdoor theater ensembles in Germany. His artistic areas include still performance, street theater, clowning, event technic and tour logistic. He plays the accordeon, clarinet, guitar, trombone and percussion. With a Bachelor of Arts in Multimedia from Ohio University, he has also worked as a graphic designer since 1999.
- **Felix Fischer (Berlin, Deutschland)** is currently studying Rehabilitation Educational Science in Berlin. He juggles, creates fire performances and plays the violin, horn, didgeridoo, flute, drums and mouth harp. He has organised several shows and workshops in Berlin, for instance during the Manege Street Arts Festival in 2008 and 2009. Felix and tyle worked together with Roma and Synthi children at the TransYapit Theater Festival in Istanbul, Turkey, 2009.



Roma School, Uzhhorod, Ukraine 2009



Manege, Berlin 2008

Workshop Directions

Topics:

- skill-sharing
- physical theater
- clowning
- juggling
- poi & staff (with or without fire)
- music (percussion, guitar, voice)
- acrobatics (floor / partnering / aerial silk)

Time frame: 2-4 days, 2-6 hours per day

Artists: approximately 5-8 people

Participants: 2-6 people per artist, no age restrictions

Show: Ending with a public performance in the school/institution where we worked and a second performance in a public square in the city.
The local organizer should obtain any necessary documents of permission.

Also possible: a short performance-tour to near-by towns using bicycles with the participants.



Technical Equipment: We play live music without amplifiers and use the existing outdoor lighting situation. Therefore, we do not need electricity, lights or a sound system.

Publicity: If word-of-mouth advertising is not adequate, we would need around 20 DIN-A3 sheets of paper and access to an A3-printer. We can print our templates with the current date and performance location from our laptop computer. We would gladly accept help with hanging up the posters. Additionally, we can walk with the children through town and pass out flyers.

Translator: Our workshops are mostly non-verbal and use gestures to communicate. However, one interpreter for the group will be necessary for organizational situations. Fluent German, English and Spanish speakers are with us. Some of us can also understand a little French, Russian and Japanese.

Meals: We prefer to cook food from the local farmer's market ourselves. After the last performance, we would like to share a larger meal with all of the children, youth, parents or chaperones and artists who took part in the street-theater experience.

Lodging: We need a safe place for our props, music instruments and bicycles. We can sleep outside in tents or all together on the floor of a large room with our mats and sleeping bags.

Arrival: Throughout the journey from Germany to Mongolia, we will remain in contact with the participating institutions/schools and notify them 5 days (or approximately 200 km) in advance before we plan to reach their city.

Estimated Itinerary 2010

March: *from Berlin through Poland*

April - May: *Ukraine*

June: *Russia*

July - August: *Kazakhstan*

September: *Mongolia*

Wish List – Equipment Donations

Bicycles

- Panniers
- Tools
- Replacement parts

Camping

- Tents for 3-5 people
- Winter sleeping bags
- Sleeping mats
- Solar charging equipment
- All-burner stove
- Expedition clothing

Miscellaneous

- Compact musical instruments
- Clown noses
- Balloons
- Circus equipment
- Kevlar for building fire performance equipment
- Travel laptop